BRITISH COLUMBIA

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highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

The Economy

- **British Columbia's economy continued to lag the rest of the country last year, slipping to last place among the provinces and territories in terms of economic growth.** The province's economy performed better than had been expected, as real gross domestic product (GDP) edged up marginally (+0.2%) in 1998. Most economists had projected negative growth for the year. *Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS*

- **Newfoundland (+6.2%), a province more commonly found at the back of the pack, led the regions last year.** Its economy expanded at twice the national average (+3.1%), fuelled by offshore oil production. Ontario's booming manufacturing, retail and telecommunications sectors kept that province (+4.3%) well ahead of most other regions. Manitoba (+3.3%) and Alberta (+3.2%) also grew at above-average rates. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **BC's weak economic growth was largely due to lower domestic demand for goods and services.** Final domestic demand shrank 0.6% in 1998. Spending by consumers, which has continued to rise throughout the nineties, tapered off, advancing only 0.9% last year. Purchases of durable goods, sometimes viewed as an indicator of consumer confidence, were down 0.9%, while other spending on goods advanced moderately. Expenditures on services continued to increase (+1.5%).

  Business investment was down across the board, declining 7.8% overall. Investment in the residential sector fell 10.3%, largely due to weaker population growth, which dampened the demand for housing in the province. Businesses cut back sharply on spending on non-residential structures (-12.4%), while purchases of machinery and equipment dropped off only modestly (-1.0%).

  Government spending on goods and services edged down (-0.2%) for the second year in a row. Offsetting this was increased investment by governments in structures (+13.6%) and machinery and equipment (+12.8%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **An improvement in BC's trade deficit (from -$10.0 billion to -$9.9 billion) was the main reason why BC's GDP in 1998 was slightly above the 1997 level despite weak domestic demand.** International and interprovincial exports of goods and services rose 2.4%, while imports increased 1.7%. Trade with the rest of Canada and trade in services boosted BC's export performance last year. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **On a per capita basis, real GDP was down for the fourth straight year, falling to $24,908.** BC's per capita GDP has been below the national average (currently $27,668) since 1994. NWT ($36,265), Alberta ($33,893), Yukon ($31,063) and Ontario ($30,674) were the only regions where per capita GDP was above the national average. PEI ($19,752) and Newfoundland ($19,753) had the lowest per capita GDP in the country. *Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS*

- **For the first time this year, department store sales in BC and the north increased at about the same rate as in the rest of Canada.** Sales in the region were 13.7% higher this September than a year earlier, while Canadian sales were up 15.1%. Nova Scotia (+10.1%) and New Brunswick (+11.6%) posted the weakest growth. Sales were strongest in Manitoba (+16.7%), Ontario (+16.6%) and Saskatchewan (+16.5%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

Report **Does it pay to move to another province?**

Did you know...

In 1997, Canadians consumed twice as much tea (57 litres per person) as our neighbours to the south (28 litres). Americans haven't been particularly fond of that beverage ever since they dumped it into Boston harbour, but they do like their soft drinks. Average consumption in the US was 201 litres (about a can and a half per person per day) in 1997, almost double that in Canada (106 litres).

Housing Starts

- **The number of housing starts in British Columbia dropped 0.6% (seasonally adjusted) between September and October, after increasing 6.0% in the previous month.** Canadian starts were also down in October, falling 2.2%. The decline was largely due to a slowdown in Quebec (-15.0%) and Ontario (-1.7%). In addition, housing starts fell sharply in New Brunswick (-27.6%), Saskatchewan (-26.2%) and PEI (-16.7%). Nova Scotia saw the strongest increase (+46.7%) in the country, posting a gain of nearly fifty percent for the second month in a row.

  Source: Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation

Cruise Ship Traffic

- **During the 1999 cruising season (March to October), 309 vessels visited the Port of Vancouver–15 more than in the previous year, when 294 cruise ships docked in Vancouver.** Cruise ships brought nearly a million (947,659) visitors to the city this season, up from 873,102 in 1998. Nearly all (900,595) of these people either embarked on or disembarked from their cruises in Vancouver. Since the beginning of the decade, cruise ship traffic through Vancouver has more than doubled. In 1991, there were 423,928 passengers who visited the port. The number of vessels docking in the city has not increased nearly as much (from 256 in 1991), suggesting that cruise ships are either getting bigger, or they are coming in to port more fully loaded than before. *Source: Port of Vancouver data*

Time Use of Canadians

- **Canadians aged 15 and over who were surveyed in 1998 said they spent 7.8 hours a day (averaged over a seven-day week) on paid (3.6 hours) and unpaid (3.6) work and on education (0.6) in 1998.** The relatively low number of hours worked reflects the fact that both employed and unemployed/retired people were included in the survey. Personal care (sleeping, meals eaten at home, and other personal care) accounted for the biggest chunk of time: 10.4 hours a day. Another 5.8 hours were spent socializing, in passive leisure (reading, watching TV and so on) or on other leisure activities such as attending or participating in entertainment and sports events.

  Canadians said shopping for goods and services took as much time (0.8 hours) as cooking and washing up, and slightly more than housekeeping (0.7 hours). Child care (0.4 hours) required less of their time, on average. They spent more than five times as much time (2.2 hours a day) watching TV as reading (0.4 hours). They were engaged in active leisure activities for 1.0 hour a day.

  Source: SC, Catalogue 12F008XIE

Drowning and Other Water-Related Fatalities

- **Between 1990 and 1998, 1,157 people died in British Columbia as a result of drowning or other water-related injuries.** Drowning claimed the lives of 791 people who were engaged in a water-related activity. Another 84 died as a result of injuries sustained while scuba diving, boating or diving and 282 drowned when their car or plane crashed into water, or when they experienced loss of consciousness from epilepsy, heart attack or accidental overdose while they were near the water. One hundred and forty three of the 1,157 deaths in BC during this period involved people from outside the province.

  Source: Vital Statistics Agency, Quarterly Digest

- **Men (665) were much more likely than women (126) to be the victims of a drowning.** This was true for all categories except drowning in a bathtub, where women (27) were more than twice as likely to suffer a mishap as men (12). The most common cause of drowning was an accidental fall into water (217), followed by an accident to a watercraft (162). About a third (35%) of the fatalities occurred in July and August. Alcohol was involved in a fifth (19%) of the drowning deaths that occurred between 1994 and 1998. *Source: Vital Statistics Agency, Quarterly Digest*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

November 12, 1999

Infoline Report:

Does moving to another province increase your income?

Contact: Ruth McDougall / (250) 387-0337

Originally published in Second Quarter 1999 issue, *Migration Highlights*. Annual subscription: $30 + GST

Summary

Migration between regions is motivated by both economic factors, such as the opportunity of a higher paying job, and non-economic factors, such as climate and being closer to family or friends. If the expected benefits of moving outweigh the costs associated with moving to another region, then the move will take place. This article uses new information to look at the economic benefits (i.e. changes in income) of interprovincial migration to and from British Columbia.

The Statistics Canada Longitudinal Administrative Database (LAD) is a ten percent representative sample of Canadian taxfilers followed as individuals over time and matched into family units on an annual basis. It provides information on incomes, taxes, basic demographic characteristics and province of residence from 1982 through 1995.

The relationship between interprovincial mobility and changes in income was recently studied using the new Longitudinal Administrative Database (LAD).[1] This database covered the period 1982 to 1995 and the data used in the analysis was generally representative of the non-student adult population aged 20 to 54 in 1982 (aged 33 to 67 in 1995). Individuals were grouped according to four types of mobility:

- those who did not move to another province (no moves),
- those who had a single move to another province,
- those who had multiples moves and were in a different province in 1995 than in 1982,
- those who had multiples moves but were living in their original province in 1995 (move and return).

The following table shows that 91.8% of the adult population of British Columbia[2] had not moved from the province between 1982 and 1995, while another 2.8% had left and returned. The remainder (5.4%) had moved from B.C. to another province during the thirteen year period. For Canada as a whole the same percentage (5.5%) of people were residing in a different province, but a smaller share (1.9%) had moved and returned to the province where they resided at the beginning of the period.

Mobility Profile for BC province of origin

Gender/Age	No Moves	Single Move	Multiple Moves	Move and Return
Both Sexes	91.8	4.3	1.1	2.8
Males	92.2	4.0	1.1	2.7
Entry (20-24)	87.0	5.4	2.3	5.6
Younger (25-34)	90.0	5.3	1.3	3.4
Prime Younger(35-44)	93.8	3.4	0.8	2.0
Prime Older (45-54)	96.3	2.2	0.4	1.1
Females	91.3	4.6	1.1	2.9
Entry (20-24)	85.1	6.9	2.3	5.7
Younger (25-34)	89.6	5.7	1.3	3.4
Prime Younger(35-44)	93.6	3.6	0.8	2.0
Prime Older (45-54)	95.7	2.5	0.3	1.4

Looking at the mobility profiles for four age groups (entry: 20-24, younger: 25-34, prime-younger: 35-44 and prime-older: 45-64) by gender, shows some interesting patterns. People in the younger age groups are more likely to have made moves of all three types (single, multiple and return move) but females, especially in the youngest age group, were more likely to have made a single move out of B.C. than their male counterparts. Young females also showed a slightly higher rate of moving and returning to the province.

The LAD database allows for the tracking of incomes of individuals over time and for the analysis of the

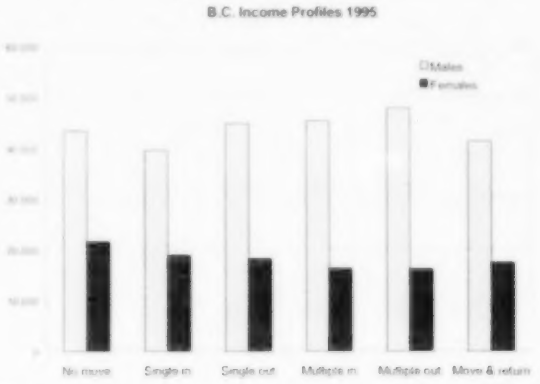
[1] Finnie, Ross [1998], "Interprovincial Mobility in Canada: A Longitudinal Analysis", Human Resources Development Canada (Applied Research Branch) Working Paper W-98-5E.a

[2] Includes Yukon.

income profiles of movers and non-movers. The study referred to above compared mean incomes in 1982 and 1995 (in constant 1995 dollars), where income was defined as total market income, i.e. all non-government sources of income. The effects of interprovincial migration on incomes vary considerably depending on the economic conditions of both the province of origin and the province of destination, as well as the age and gender of the migrants. The period from 1982 to 1995 is also subject to some strong cyclical influences with 1982 being a period of recession.

The table on the next page presents the income profiles for both people residing in B.C. in 1982 (B.C. province of origin) and in 1995 (B.C. province of destination). Overall those who were resident in the province between 1982 and 1995 had higher incomes than those who moved either in or out of the province during the period. However, those who moved out of the province had greater increases in their incomes than those who stayed. Also, those who either came to B.C. through a number of moves and those who left and subsequently returned had greater increases than those who stayed.

The income profiles show different patterns for men and women in the four age groupings. Young men in the entry group saw their incomes grow by more than 60% but those who moved away from the province, moved into the province or moved and returned, all had stronger income growth than those who stayed. However, those who stayed had the highest incomes at both the beginning and end of the period and therefore probably had less reason to look for better opportunities. In the next youngest age group those who left the province and those that came to B.C. via several moves fared better than those who had not moved from the province. Among the prime younger age group, those who stayed in the province saw almost no change in their incomes, while those who moved to other provinces had increases greater than 10%. Those that came or returned to B.C. either had decreases in income or only small increases. The oldest age group showed large decreases in income but this group would be 58-67 years old by the end of the period and would be moving into retirement and therefore receiving less market income.



The income levels of women of were well below those of their male counterparts. Women who remained in B.C. between 1982 and 1995 had higher incomes than those who moved into or out of the province. It is likely that the interprovincial mobility of some women was related more to the careers of their spouses than to their own careers and may have hindered their income growth.

Women in the two youngest age groups, who made a single move to another province, saw their incomes more than double over the 13 year period. In the 35 to 44 age group women who moved but returned to B.C. had the largest increase (up by one third) in their incomes, while those who moved into B.C. from another province had only very small increases in their earnings. As with the data on males, the changes in the incomes of the oldest age group were difficult to interpret, as a result of many women in this group moving into retirement.

The LAD data sheds more light on the economic benefits of interprovincial migration but supports the general conclusion of an earlier study[3] (based on 1991 Census data for Canada) that, relative to men, women tend to benefit less from migration.

[3] Bali, Ram [1994], Y. E. Shin, M. Pouliot, "Canadians on the Move", Statistics Canada Cat. 96-309E.

Recent Feature Articles

Sep	1998	How many people were missed in the Census?
Dec	1998	Where We Work and How We Get There.
Apr	1999	B.C. Migration – Outlook for 1999
Jun	1999	Regional Migration Outlook

Income Profiles (1995$) for BC province of origin

	Mean Income 1982				Mean Income 1995							
Gender/Age	No Moves	Single Move	Multiple Moves	Move and Return	No Moves	Single Move	Multiple Moves	Move and Return	No Moves	Single Move	Multiple Moves	Move and Return
Both Sexes	29,900	24,700	24,800	24,600	32,000	30,100	30,800	28,200	7.0	21.9	24.2	14.6
Males	42,900	38,300	37,600	37,600	43,300	44,800	47,800	41,300	0.9	17.0	27.1	9.8
Entry (20-24)	25,700	23,100	24,100	21,600	41,300	38,800	40,500	36,400	60.7	68.0	68.0	68.5
Younger (25-34)	38,500	36,800	38,600	38,100	47,300	48,500	50,800	46,000	22.9	31.8	31.6	20.7
Prime Younger(35-44)	48,200	47,900	48,700	46,900	48,900	53,300	56,700	41,100	1.5	11.3	16.4	-12.4
Prime Older (45-54)	49,700	43,000	42,600	49,400	31,900	23,100	31,300	29,400	-35.8	-46.3	-26.5	-40.5
Females	17,900	13,600	13,700	13,800	21,500	18,100	16,100	17,300	20.1	33.1	17.5	25.4
Entry (20-24)	14,600	11,700	13,200	12,000	18,400	18,200	16,100	15,900	26.0	55.6	22.0	32.5
Younger (25-34)	16,700	13,100	13,300	14,200	24,400	19,900	17,000	19,000	46.1	51.9	27.8	33.8
Prime Younger(35-44)	19,000	14,700	16,500	14,900	24,100	18,500	17,000	19,800	26.8	25.9	3.0	32.9
Prime Older (45-54)	20,300	17,300	13,800	16,600	15,300	10,000	12,500	11,200	-24.6	-42.2	-9.4	-32.5

Income Profiles (1995$) for BC province of destination

	Mean Income 1995											
Gender/Age	No Moves	Single Move	Multiple Moves	Move and Return	No Moves	Single Move	Multiple Moves	Move and Return	No Moves	Single Move	Multiple Moves	Move and Return
Both Sexes	29,900	29,100	26,900	24,600	32,000	28,300	30,800	28,200	7.0	-2.7	14.5	14.6
Males	42,900	42,800	39,300	37,600	43,300	39,500	45,300	41,300	0.9	-7.7	15.3	9.8
Entry (20-24)	25,700	22,900	21,900	21,600	41,300	38,000	37,500	36,400	60.7	65.9	71.2	68.5
Younger (25-34)	38,500	38,100	37,300	38,100	47,300	42,900	47,400	46,000	22.9	12.6	27.1	20.7
Prime Younger(35-44)	48,200	50,300	49,700	46,900	48,900	43,300	52,900	41,100	1.5	-13.9	6.4	-12.4
Prime Older (45-54)	49,700	58,400	61,000	49,400	31,900	30,400	38,000	29,400	-35.8	-47.9	-37.7	-40.5
Females	17,900	17,400	14,400	13,800	21,500	18,800	16,200	17,300	20.1	8.0	12.5	25.4
Entry (20-24)	14,600	13,900	11,700	12,000	18,400	18,000	14,700	15,900	26.0	29.5	25.6	32.5
Younger (25-34)	16,700	16,900	14,800	14,200	24,400	22,100	18,000	19,000	46.1	30.8	21.6	33.8
Prime Younger(35-44)	19,000	18,700	16,900	14,900	24,100	19,200	17,100	19,800	26.8	2.7	1.2	32.9
Prime Older (45-54)	20,300	21,000	16,600	16,600	15,300	12,800	8,700	11,200	-24.6	-39.0	-47.6	-32.5

Source: Finnie, Ross [1998], "Interprovincial Mobility in Canada: A Longitudinal Analysis", Human Resources Development Canada (Applied Research Branch) Working Paper W-98-5E.a

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November 5, 1999

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/99	% change on one year ago
BC	4,029.3	0.7
Canada	30,568.0	0.9
GDP and INCOME		% change on
(BC - at market prices)	1998	one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	110,948	-0.2
GDP *($ 1992 millions)*	99,708	0.2
GDP *($ 1992 per Capita)*	24,908	-0.8
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1992 per Capita)*	15,969	-1.6
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Aug	3,123	10.8
Merchandise Exports (raw) Aug	2,454	4.7
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Aug	2,788	1.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on
(all items - 1992=100)	Sep '99	one year ago
BC	112.2	2.0
Canada	111.4	2.6
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Oct '99	one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,049	0.1
Employed - BC	1,897	0.7
Unemployed - BC	152	-6.5
		Oct '98
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.4	8.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	8.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Nov 10/99	Nov 11/98
Prime Business Rate	6.25	7.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.35	6.40
- 5 year	8.25	7.15
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Nov 10/99	Nov 11/98
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.4714	1.5457
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.6796	0.6478
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Oct '99	one year ago
BC	638.22	1.3
Canada	602.79	2.8

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm

1998 GDP numbers out

Statistics Canada has released provincial economic accounts estimates for 1998. The GDP data opposite have been updated. For more detail, see our Internet site. Go through **'What's new'** or **Subjects**.

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Released this week by BC STATS

- Labour Force Statistics, October 1999
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, Third Quarter 1999

Next week

- Consumer Price Index, October 1999

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